

COMMERCIAL.

As usual, at this season of the year, there is but a small amount of business being transacted in the Atlantic cities, and in money circles there is a general stagnation.

Stocks are without material change and quiet. Virginia Sixes are quoted in New York at 96 1/2.

In local stocks there have been very few transactions, and we have no change whatever to note in the quotations of last week.

Land Warrants are quiet. The following are the New York quotations:—40 acres at 100/100; 100; 80; 80; 80; 80; 120; 82; 85; and 160; 85; 85.

Messrs. Douglas & Co. of New York, have issued a circular furnishing what professes to be a list of the mercantile and business failures in the United States and Canada during the years 1857 and 1858.

The total failures in 1857, and 4,235 in 1858. The 932 failures in 1857, and 4,235 in 1858, amounted to \$291,750,000, whereas last year they were only \$95,749,602.

The fifty-eight failures in Baltimore in 1857, involved liabilities to the amount of \$3,206,000, against \$2,442,640 of liabilities of seventy-six failures in 1858.

The Circular says, the accounts from all quarters except portions of Virginia, are uniform in their testimony, that trade is in a healthy condition.

The Circular may or may not be correct in its figures. We incline to the opinion, that most of it is mere guess work. It says that in New York State the failures decreased in 1858, as compared with 1857, nearly forty per cent.

Sales of Stock in Richmond, Jan. 14. Virginia six per cent, 24 years to run, no sales at all.

Richmond City Bonds \$25 interest off. Virginia Bank Stock \$70 sales \$71, extra dividend. Potomac Bank Stock \$100, offered.

Exchange Bank Stock \$100, offered. Potomac Bank Stock \$100, offered. Potomac Bank Stock \$100, offered.

PRICES OF PRODUCE IN ALEXANDRIA. FROM CARS, VESSELS, AND WAGONS, (YESTERDAY.) FLOUR, Superfine \$5 00 to \$5 12 1/2.

WHEAT, White \$1 25 to 1 30. Do Red \$1 15 to 1 20. CORN, Yellow \$0 75 to 0 80.

RYE \$0 40 to 0 45. OATS \$0 30 to 0 35. BUTTER, Choice \$12 00 to 12 50.

EGGS \$1 00 to 1 10. LARD, Prime \$6 00 to 6 50. SUGAR, Choice \$12 00 to 12 50.

COFFEE, Java \$12 00 to 12 50. PEPPER, Black \$10 00 to 10 50. SPICES, Assorted \$10 00 to 10 50.

REMARKS.—In consequence of the suspension of navigation for several days during the early part of the week, and the light receipts of produce by railroads, the market has been very quiet.

By order of the City Council, the SOUP HOUSE, on Royal street, will be opened TO-DAY, at 12 o'clock, M., and on each succeeding day.

THE President and Directors of this Bank, have this day declared a dividend of three-and-a-half per cent, net, for the past six months.

DIVIDEND.—The President and Directors of the Farmer's Bank of Virginia, have declared a dividend of four and one quarter per cent, net, for the past six months.

FOR SALE.—A new and beautiful SLOOP, of 15 tons, built in the most substantial manner, suitable for fishing, ducking, &c.

The Pork Market.

The Cincinnati Gazette says:—"There has not been a year for some time when less pork has been packed by farmers and store keepers, than the present."

New York City Market, January 12. Beef Cattle—100 lbs. for inferior to first quality. Cows—Sales at \$2 1/2 to \$3 1/2.

ALMANAC. 1859. FIRST MONTH. JANUARY. SUNDAY. MOON'S PHASES.

15 Saturday..... 7 13 4 47. 16 S. M. 17 Sunday..... 7 12 4 48. Full moon..... 23 2 24.

MEMORANDA. Scher, Sylvanus Allen, Sears, for this port, cleared at Boston, 11th inst.

At a meeting of the Vestry of Christ Church, Alexandria, held on the evening of the 10th inst., the following proceedings were had:—

Whereas, it has pleased an All-wise Providence to remove from the sphere of his usefulness in life, our late esteemed friend and associate, THOMAS G. AUSTIN.

Be it resolved, That the Vestry of this Church have learned with unaffected sorrow of this afflictive bereavement.

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CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, the resolution to pay out of the contingent fund of the Senate the funeral expenses of the late Jas. H. Morton, superintendent of the furnace, was called up and passed—yeas 33, nays 17.

Mr. Fitzpatrick presented a memorial for the establishment of a line of mail steamers from New Orleans to Mobile, and posts on the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Iverson offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy for a statement of all contracts entered into for live-oak timber, and the result of such contracts.

Mr. Cameron moved to take up the bill providing for the construction of a passenger railway on Pennsylvania avenue, in Washington City.

After debate between Mr. Brown for taking up the bill, and Mr. Iverson against it, Mr. Cameron's motion was not agreed to.

The Pacific Railroad bill was then taken up, and Mr. Chandler addressed the Senate against it.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Kunkel offered a resolution of inquiry as to the amount of coal used in the Navy since 1852, and of the amount paid coal agents as commissioners, and as to what authority there is for employing those agents; adopted.

Mr. Harris offered a resolution empowering the select committee on the accounts of the Superintendent of Public Printing, to employ a stenographer.

On motion of Mr. Houston, it was amended so to allow the Judiciary Committee the same privilege; adopted.

On motion of Mr. Stevens, the House resolved the call of the committee.

The committees were then called for reports on private cases, and a large number of private bills were reported.

BY YESTERDAY EVENING'S MAILS. FAIRFAX COUNTY ITEMS.—The following Justices will constitute the County Court for January Term, (Monday next), viz:—

J. C. Gunnell, Presiding Justice, Richard L. Novatt, Alfred Leigh, and Tenley S. Swink, Associates.

A large number of valuable Farms will be offered at public sale in front of the Court-House on Monday next.

The Lecture delivered before Fairfax Division, No. 75 S. T., in the Court-House, on Monday night last, by Mr. Henry T. Brooks, was indeed a most able, eloquent and interesting one, and was listened to with marked attention by a large and intelligent audience.

A very fine deer was killed on Tuesday, the 4th inst., within one mile of Frying-Pan Meeting-House, in this county, by the sons of Dr. Daniel Jannet.

The intensely cold weather which has prevailed for a week past has enabled many of our citizens to fill their ice-houses with ice of a very superior quality.—Fairfax News.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—About 2 o'clock last Tuesday morning, a destructive fire occurred at "Woodstock," in Henrico county, the residence of Mrs. Mary B. Price.

DOVE & CO'S celebrated Horse POWDERS, just received, and for sale by WILLIAM A. HART, No. 109, King street, corner of Pitt.

SEAGRAM'S SEAGRAM'S—Another supply of the Evening Star Medium Regalia Sugar, just received, and for sale by JOHN A. BEXON, No. 109, King street, corner of Pitt.

25 KEES GOSHEN AND GLADES BUTTER of superior quality, 20 boxes Eastern Cheese, just received, in store, and for sale by JOHN A. BEXON, Family Grocer.

20 BBL'S, Crushed, Granulated, Powdered, and Coffee SUGARS, just received, and for sale by JOHN A. BEXON, Family Grocer.

BY order of the City Council, the SOUP HOUSE, on Royal street, will be opened TO-DAY, at 12 o'clock, M., and on each succeeding day.

The editor of the Alexandria Gazette.

I have observed a resolution passed by a late general meeting of the Alexandria and Washington Turnpike Company, denouncing as unmerciful and illegal, the action of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad Company, in relation to the location and erection of a pier upon an unused, and to them useless, part of the turnpike.

I think it will strike any one who takes the trouble to look into the subject, that the parties who procured the passage and publication of that resolution, are more anxious to excite prejudice against the Railroad Company, than to obtain redress of the alleged injury.

The acquisition of a want of courtesy, I meet with the annexed note from Mr. Randolph, the Engineer in charge of the work in question; and I have no doubt that every unprejudiced person will agree with me that the discourtesy, if any, was on the other side.

I am sure the Railroad Company have no wish to infringe the legal or other rights of any one; and in this business, they have been governed by the advice of their counsel, Messrs. D. Fox and Geo. W. Brent, (senior) Messrs. heretofore, gentlemen who would hardly be accused here of advising an unfair or illegal course.

As to the inability of the Railroad Company to respond in damages by reason of the mortgage referred to in a recent publication, I have to say that the Company have offered to deposit any amount which may be required to meet a verdict for damages.

This offer I here repeat. They are and ever have been able and ready to pay their debts, when properly settled, as was the case with their claim upon the Alexandria Turnpike Company.

It is obvious, however, from the annexed account of this Turnpike Company, that an amicable agreement with them as to their claim is not to be expected; and it would seem that they are not disposed to resort to the proper means to ascertain its amount. I now invite them to that resort, and pledge myself that the mortgage referred to shall not present the slightest difficulty in making their money.

LEWIS MCKENZIE, President A. L. & H. R. R. Co. ALEXANDRIA, Jan. 12, 1859.

DEAR SIR:—In answer to your note of this date, calling my attention to a resolution of the Washington and Annapolis Turnpike Company, respecting the action of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad Company, in the erection of a pier for a bridge across the Washington and Alexandria Turnpike, I have to say that I have no objection to the location of the pier, so long as it is not upon the Washington and Alexandria Turnpike Company's land, and so long as it is not upon the land of any one else.

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LOCAL ITEMS.

LECTURE.—The Lecture at Sarepta Hall, on Thursday night last, by the Rev. Dr. Pitts, "On the Sublime Wonders of the Bible, Prophecy Fulfilled in America"—was one of the most remarkable discourses to which we have ever listened.

The lecturer seems to be perfectly conversant with Bible Prophecies, and from the ingenuity he displays in advocating his peculiar theory, he evinces evidences of a mind capable of grasping the most gigantic truths, and of imparting them to his hearers with an ability which is rarely exhibited by public speakers.

Fluent in speech—forceful in manner—and with a ready command of choice language, he at once secures the attention of his auditors; and while we are not sufficiently acquainted with the subject to pronounce upon the justness of his position, we must say, that no one can listen to him without being favorably impressed with his rare erudition, and his great capacity to interest his hearers.

THE WARRENTON WHIG.—The editor of the Warrenton Whig, while on a visit to Richmond, recently obtained over one hundred subscribers to his excellent journal.—The Whig is one of the best country papers in the State, and it gratifies us to hear of its success.

Its worthy editor, Col. J. Emmett Scruggs, is a forcible, fluent and witty writer, and possesses that quality, so essential to the proper conducting of a newspaper, indomitable energy. The Whig has, as it so well merits, a fine advertising patronage, and a large circulation, which is rapidly increasing, in every part of the State. We hope it may go on "prospering and prospering."

REGIMENTAL COURT OF INQUIRY.—A regimental Court of Inquiry, consisting of the Field officers and commanders of companies of the 15th regiment of Virginia militia, was organized yesterday afternoon, at the Court House, Col. C. E. Stuart presiding, and S. King Shays, Secretary, pro tem. Lieut. John A. Millburn was unanimously elected clerk, and Lieut. Wm. Jenkins, Provost Marshal of the Court.

The appointment of John H. Higdon to the post of Adjutant, by the Colonel, was approved by the Court. The Court then adjourned.

FISH WHARF.—The renting of the FISH WHARF, will take place on the 22nd of this month. This valuable property is the great mart for the Potomac Fisheries, and has usually rented at a high figure—and, in favorable fishing seasons, has always paid the renters well.

COUNTY COURT.—Yesterday.—Commonwealth vs. James Webster for assault and battery on Theodore Meade. The jury rendered a verdict guilty, and assessed the fine at \$20. Judgment for fine and costs.—The Court disposed of several civil cases, and adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

THE WEATHER.—The late cold "snap" was indeed a "snap." It lasted but two or three days. The ice which was made in the river, broke up, on Thursday, and is all fast melting or drifting away. Navigation is again open to this place. Yesterday there was a heavy fog, and rain.

CORRECTION.—In the report of the case of Corlett vs. Conrad, in the Court proceeding in yesterday's Gazette, the Counsel should have been: A. C. E. Stuart for the plaintiff; L. B. Taylor, G. W. Brent, and Robert L. Smith, for the defendant.

THE SUEZ HOUSE was opened yesterday according to notice, by the clerk of the Market, and a quantity of soup of an excellent quality dispensed to the poor of the city.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.—The prospects of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal doubtless never have been so flattering for a profitable business, as they are for the ensuing year. The principal interruptions to navigation heretofore have generally resulted from the temporary or insecure nature of Dams 4 and 5. The solid stone structure for the first mentioned of these, is nearly completed; and the other will doubtless be nearly, if not quite finished, early in the next season. Each of them are of solid masonry, of a character that will resist the shock of the heaviest freshet that may hereafter occur. So we think that we may now, with some degree of certainty, begin to anticipate something like permanent navigation upon this great business thoroughfare hereafter. The whole of the work upon the river mentioned dams have been done under the immediate superintendence and direction of Mr. John G. Stone, the chief superintendent, to whom great credit is due for the manner in which it has thus far been executed. To his watchfulness and judicious management of the affairs of the line, the Company is also mainly indebted for the large increase in the revenue the last season. If no unforeseen accident shall occur, we think that we are safe in estimating the receipts of the ensuing season at over \$200,000. The day we regard is not very far distant, if we shall have a continuation of such management, as we have witnessed upon it the past season, when the Canal will begin to make some returns to its proprietors, and many some returns to its long neglected (unavoidably) and patient creditors.—Georgetown Correspondent of the Wash. Star.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American says:—"It is the general remark that this 'season' is the dullest which has been seen in Washington for many years. Perhaps it is rendered the more so from the contrast of former excesses. Last winter, immediately on the heels of the revolution, gaiety held a regular carnival, while the necessity for retrenchment was preached. Economy has length applied its strong breaks upon the whirling car of fashion, and the speed is sensibly and beneficially reduced."

Nevertheless, we constantly see notices of balls, parties, "chops," receptions, entertainments by the Secretaries, &c., in the Washington papers.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"Passengers on the trains of cars between Washington and Baltimore have now a fine view of the new 'Agricultural College' edifice, a few miles northeast of Bladensburg. Its spacious dimensions may be readily judged even from the railway, and the substantial character of the work is guaranteed to all who know the name of Charles Calvert is identified therewith."

NOTICE.—Our accounts will be ready for delivery, January 1st, and we solicit from our friends prompt settlements.

G. K. WITMER & BROS.

POSTSCRIPT.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Additional Foreign Intelligence.

HALIFAX, Jan. 13.—The Niagara brings intelligence that the Hon. E. M. Erskine is transferred from the Secretaryship of Legation at Washington, to Stockholm, and is to be succeeded by Mr. W. Irvine, late first paid attaché at Vienna.

The London Times, in a leader on the right of search, thinks the only way out of the difficulty, is a declaration that the slave trade is piracy. This, however, the Americans will not do, and the French will not do. "Thus, therefore, we go on, wasting the precious lives of English sailors upon the coast of Africa, where one rescued negro cannot be shown as a set-off against ten dead Englishmen—where our impotent force has become a mockery, and our blind and useless zeal, a jest."

The affair of the steamer Washington at Nicaragua, has given rise to editorials in the English press. The Times says that "We may remark that this style of communication, in which at every difficulty war is denounced, reflects no credit on American good sense, and cannot even give them any real reputation for courage."

"A collision between the armed forces of England and America, would be an event fraught with terrible consequences, and perhaps a bloody war would be carried on in the most ferocious spirit, to the ruin of a vast trade, and a check to the progress of both hemispheres would be the result. A struggle between two such peoples would bring into play animosities which would be all the more bitter for relationship."

The London Globe's Paris correspondent says "I am able to state very confidently that the court of Tuilleries had within the last two or three days caused Lord Derby's government to be officially informed that, in case England should think fit to take any measures to counteract certain parts of President Buchanan's message, she may rely on the support of France to the utmost extent."

The Peninsula Correspondent says:—"The news which the telegraph has brought concerning the message of the President of the United States has produced a great sensation here (Madrid), and has already been commented on by the daily journals in a tone of offended national pride which might naturally be expected."

A letter from Jaffa dated December 2d, says that no punishment has yet been inflicted on the five Mussulman arrested for the murder of an American family in the neighborhood of Jaffa. The Americans have threatened to bombard the town if justice is not executed, and if they keep their word they will have to come to that extremity.

Later from Cuba.

SAVANNAH, Jan. 14.—The steamship Isabel, from Havana, on the 9th, touched at Tybee yesterday. She reports squall quiet, in consequence of the holidays. The slave trade in the Island was very active. Nearly 2,000 negroes are reported to have been recently landed.

THE extensive smuggling of land in bbls, marked as potatoes, has been discovered, and an order will soon be issued requiring all cargoes to be certified to by a Spanish consul.

THE Florida Indians.

SAVANNAH, Jan. 14.—The Tampa "Pensacola" says that Col. Rector arrived there on the 6th, with a delegation of Western Seminoles, to make a last effort to remove the Florida Indians west of the Mississippi.

Foreign War Vessel at Vera Cruz.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 13.—The Tennessee reports five French, four Spanish, and three English vessels of war at Sacrifices.

AUCTION SALES.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF BANK STOCK.—By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Alexandria County, Va., rendered on the 18th day of November, 1858, in the suit of Castleman, vs. McVeigh, the undersigned as Commissioner, is hereby appointed, will offer for sale at public auction, in front of the Mayor's office, in the city of Alexandria, on Monday, the 14th day of February, 1859, at 12 o'clock, P. M., twenty shares of stock of Bank of the Old Dominion, Cash.

DAVID FUNSTEN, Com'r. S. F. BEACH, Com'r's. Jan 10—601ts

CHARLES M. CASTLEMAN, plaintiff, vs. C. McVeigh, McKenzie, and others, defendants: In Chancery. This cause coming on to be heard, this 18th day of November, 1858, upon the papers formerly read, and the report of Commissioner West, (to which report no exceptions have been filed, and which report is in all things affirmed, it was argued by counsel—Upon consideration whereof the Court doth order, adjudge, and decree that unless the plaintiff, Castleman, shall pay to the defendant, McVeigh, within thirty days after the adjournment of this Court, the amount appearing due to McVeigh by the alternate statement returned with said report, to-wit: The sum of one thousand two hundred and forty-four dollars and seventy-four cents, with interest thereon from the 27th of November, 1858, until paid, the twenty shares of Bank Stock in the proceedings mentioned, be sold for cash, thirty days previous to the time and place of sale having been first given in public notice, in one of the newspapers printed in the city of Alexandria, and that out of the proceeds of sale the said balance due to the defendant, McVeigh, be first paid, and the residue of the said balance be paid over to said Castleman and his assigns. And the Court doth appoint David Funsten and S. Ferguson Beach, Commissioners, to make said sale, who before receiving any moneys arising therefrom, shall execute bond with security, approved by the Clerk of this Court, in the penalty of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties. And the Court doth further order, that upon the payment by the said Castleman of the balance aforesaid to the said McVeigh, in the manner before specified, the said McVeigh shall return the said twenty shares of Bank Stock, and transfer the same to the said Castleman or his assigns, together with all dividends which have accrued thereon since they have been held by the said McVeigh, and the cause is continued for further proceedings to be had therein. A Copy—Taken. Jan 11—601ts

A VERY CHEAP FARM FOR SALE.—183 ACRES OF LAND—good red soil, well wooded with oak, Hickory, and Pine—comfortable house, with a large barn, and a well, and bounded on the other side by a public road, about a mile from Sudley Mills—near which there will be a depot on the Independent Line of the Manassas Gap Railroad, where wood enough might be sold to pay for the Farm, without any inconvenience of injury to the land. This farm can be purchased for two thousand dollars cash, by making early application to the undersigned, at the residence of the owner, to-wit: B. T. CHINN, Agent, Near Groveton, Va., on Wednesday, the 10th day of February next. It previously sold, and notice will be given. B. T. CHINN, Agent. Jan 10—601ts

WOOD FOR SALE.—I have 1000 Cords of Oak and Hickory WOOD for sale, either by the quantity or Car Load, delivered in Alexandria, at J. K. EDSELL, Mount Lebanon. Jan 7—601ts

WAGSTERS FLUID, and 50 cent Alcohol, for sale by PEEL, STEVENS & CO., corner King and Alfred streets. Jan 12

BAKING—25 boxes Bunch Raisins, this day landing from Sbr. Arcote, and for sale by GRAY, MILLER & CO., corner of King and Water-sts. Jan 10

POTASH.—One sack No. 1 Potash, received and for sale by JOHN LEADBEATER & SON, 140 S. 1st St. Establers Old Stand. Jan 3

AUCTION SALES.

BY SAMUEL J. McFORMICK—AUCTIONEER.—FISH WHARF FOR RENT, AT PUBLIC AUCTION.—On SATURDAY, 22nd of January, at 12 o'clock, P. M., in front of the Mayor's Office, will be rented at Public Auction, for the ensuing March and ending on the 1st day of June, 1859, the property known as the FISH WHARF, and bounded by Union street on the West, the north line of Oronsko street on the North, the River Potomac on the East, and the line of Adams, King, and on the South, excepting the three lots leased to J. T. Ballenger, Jas. McLean, and Sam'l Beach, fronting on Union Street. This property will be rented as it now stands, and the renter will be required to furnish a laborer for platform sufficient to accommodate the trade.

In renting this property, it must be distinctly understood, that no privilege respecting the sale of fish thereon will be granted, inconsistent with the laws on that subject, and that the Adams, King, &c. says on the property must be kept free and open.

Rent to be paid, one-third on the first of May; one-third on the first of June; one-third on the first of July.

Security for the prompt payment of the rent at maturity of the obligation, to be given a deposit of collateral, either in the bonds of the State of Virginia, the Corporation of Alexandria, or other securities satisfactory to the Mayor, and on the 1st day of January, 1859, the obligation of the Lessee to provide for a sale of such securities, upon ten days' notice, after failure to pay the said rent.

THOMAS SMITH, Chairman of Public Property. Jan 14—601ts

WHARF AND WAREHOUSE TO LEASE.—The WHARF at the foot of Duke street, north side, formerly known as "Rumney's Wharf," with the HOUSE and WAREHOUSE attached, and the VACANT GROUNDS north of the Warehouse, will be leased to the highest bidder, by Auction, on SATURDAY, 22nd of January, at 12 o'clock, P. M., in front of the Mayor's Office, for a term of three years, from the 1st day of February next. The rent must be paid quarterly, and the premises left in good order. By order of the Committee on Public Property: THOMAS SMITH, Chairman. Jan 14—601ts

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF VALUABLE LAND.—Pursuant to a decree of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, rendered at its June term, 1858, in the suit of Thomas Coffey and others, vs. P. A. Stryker and others, I shall, on Monday, the 17th day of January, 1859, in front of the